



Bohemian House 11 W. Illinois St. 312-955-0439 El Che Bar chef de cuisine Mark Steuer provides a preview of the new concept he's launching next year by serving veal schnitzel made with brown butter bread crumbs, sauerkraut, lingonberry, chive mustard and slow-poached egg yolk (\$26) paired with Pilsner Urquell served in a commemorative mug (\$8). 5-10 p.m.

NATIONAL CHEESEBURGER DAY

Asado Urban Grill

8500 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 773-329-2850 Dig in to a Latin fusion burger with Chihuahua cheese, quacamole and pickled Poblano relish served with Corona as part of the weeklong celebration that features a different burger and beer special every day through Friday. \$18. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-10 p.m.

NOW OPEN

Bangers & Lace 1851 W. Addison St. 773-697-8667 The Wicker Park spot expands to Roscoe Village, serving favorites like the duck BLT made with duck sausage and tomato-bacon chutney (\$11) plus new dishes like bangers & mash (\$11) along with 20 beers on tap (\$6-\$9). 3 p.m.-2 a.m.



WhirlyBall

1825 W. Webster Ave. 773-486-7777 Compete against representatives from SweetWater Brewing Co. for the chance to win swag. The bar pours the brewery's beers including 420 extra pale ale and Hash session IPA (\$5-\$12). The first 75 attendees receive a pint glass. 7:30-10 p.m. No cover. RSVP at whirlyball.com/sweetwater-whirlyball-challenge to be entered to win a bags set or \$100 gift card.

'HAVING IT ALL' The iO Theater 1501 N.

Kingsbury St. 312-929-2401 Hear storytellers share comedic tales about "having it all" followed by improv based on the themes of the stories at the monthly all-female show, 10:30 p.m. \$5. Tickets: ioimprov.com







8669





HAPPY HOUR OF THE DAY

The Kerryman (661 N. Clark St. 312-335-8121) offers \$6 Jameson Bucks, \$6 Grey Goose Moscow mules and \$7 flatbread from 4-7 p.m.

IS ACNE HOLDING YOU BACK?

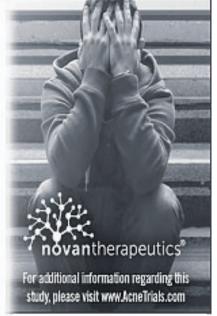
A clinical study, sponsored by Novan Therapeutics, is currently underway to evaluate an investigational medication for acne vulgaris on the face. Acne vulgaris is a common skin condition that consists of blackheads, whiteheads, pimples, and sometimes deeper lumps called nodules or cysts. This study will last approximately 3 months.

You may be a candidate for this study if you:

- Are a healthy male or female 12 years of age or older
- Have moderate to severe facial acne
- Have at least 20 pimples
- Are available for up to 6 visits
- Are willing to apply investigational medication or placebo for 12 weeks

Additional entry critiera apply. Qualified participants will receive related medical examinations and study medication at no cost, and may be eligible for compensation for their time and travel.

IRB ID#: STU00202509



Interested or have questions?

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for more information





By Lindsay Weber | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Driven by angst and rock 'n' roll, the youth of the early '90s wanted two things: a voice and their MTV.

Statements came in the form of Madonna cloaked in an American flag, explicit rap lyrics and the existential crises of the disaffected young people in "Reality Bites."

Their Doc Martens tightly laced, young voters made their way to the polls by way of the Rock the Vote movement, to stand at the foot of democracy, demanding an audience.

The voice of the Millennial is no longer that of a call for attention, but rather, a call for action.

Rock the Vote is still alive and well, but with the powerhouse that is social media, the group is spreading its message through more ways than just Liquid Television.

"American voter mindset has changed," said Luis Calderin, Rock the Vote's vice president of marketing and creative, who also worked on Bernie Sanders' campaign. "We started as the voice of young people fighting for musicians that were being censored. Over the years, we realized that our call was bigger. To educate young Americans about the voting process and create tools to do so, but those

tools have changed. We have to go to them and get them where they are.*

Many of Sanders' Millennial supporters have gravitated toward Hillary Clinton, according to an August USA Today poll.

Clinton, however, has struggled to relate to Millennial voters and is still received with mixed enthusiasm. Sean Anderson, vice president of Young Democrats of Illinois, agrees Clinton has some catching up to do.

"Clinton has struggled to connect with Millennials, but she is working on finding her voice to speak to what she envisions for America," Anderson said. "Millennials might have a hard time understanding where Trump stands on issues. When we talk about the American people, we consider that people of all colors and backgrounds. A candidate that doesn't feel the same is not a candidate we should vote for. We are going to realize the country we want in this election."

The Census Bureau defines Millennials as those born between 1982 and 2000 and has identified them as the largest and most diverse group of voters in the country. The numbers are in their favor, but the last election showed theirs to be lowest turnout number at the polls. What will motivate them to

punch the ticket this election?

"At the heart of this election is the overwhelming sense that we are fed up. We're over the headlines of police brutality, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion being the basis of injustices and attacks," Calderin said. "We're working to channel this frustration into the ballot box, because voting is the way to progress and change."

Knowing what you want and knowing how to get it are two different things. Some voters just don't know if either candidate is right for the job.

"I feel I'm forced to choose between the lesser of two evils," said 23-year-old Caitlin Smith of North Barrington. "My biggest concern is our country's safety, and I feel I can't trust either candidate on this. One can't keep their mouth shut when challenged and the other has already failed at this. It comes down to trust, and I just don't think either fit the bill."

Smith was intimidated when she went to vote for the first time in 2012 and said that had it not been for her friends, she may not have been inclined to go at all.

Rock the Vote offers tools for registration, voting locations and deadlines, but logistics aside, Smith struggles with whether or not her vote even matters.

Chicago transplant and current D.C. resident Kelly Zolnierczyk said she finds herself in the same boat as Smith. The 26-year-old admitted that living near Capitol Hill keeps her in tune with the political temperature but doesn't exactly ignite her urge to vote.

"I know who I won't vote for," Zolnierczyk said. "I think people my age are generally optimistic and tolerant, but we want some drastic changes. We want to stop being deceived and discredited, but I don't know that my vote is going to have an impact."

Calderin says participating in democracy and voting are the only ways to effect change.

"This November isn't just about the highlevel presidential race. It's about the congressmen and women up for re-election," Calderin said. "All those special-interest parties who sway those that are supposed to be serving us as their constituents. They're counting on us not showing up, not voting. If we don't vote, things stay the same."

History is being drafted, and with less than two months to Election Day, Millennials have to decide whether they want to sit this one out, or vote and be counted.

Chicago Tribune



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SAVAGE



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Double Mellowed Tennessee Whiskey, 40% Alc. by Vol. (80 Proof) Distilled and bottles by Jack Daniels Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee.

New ways tech can improve your travel

Need an Uber next month? Feature lets you book now

By Meg Graham | BLUE SKY INNOVATION

The days of pre-arranging an early-morning ride to the airport are back—if

you want them to be.

Uber rolled out its "Scheduled Rides" feature to Chicago users last week, allowing riders to choose a 15-minute window of time for a pickup up to a month in advance.

The company, which first announced the feature in June, said the ability to schedule rides was a top-requested feature from business travelers.

"Since Uber's magic of 'push a button and get a ride' launched 6 years ago, people have valued the ability to access rides on-demand through our

app," the company said in a blog post this summer. "But we've also heard from our

riders that sometimes they want to arrange a pickup in advance so they can rest assured

> that an Uber will be available when they need it, even if it's for a 4 a.m. ride to the airport."

> The feature has already rolled out in dozens of cities, including Seattle, Washington, D.C., San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Users can schedule rides for uberX, uberSUV, uberXL, uberESPANOL and uber-BLACK.

In the city's high-volume areas, riders rarely face long waits for rides.

But for riders in the suburbs or those requesting rides at off hours, a pre-arranged ride could

give riders more certainty that they will get a ride on time.



Blue Sky Innovation, featuring news. analysis and events related to innovation. entrepreneurship and the next Big Idea.

TouchTunes jukeboxes add real-time transit info

By Cheryl V. Jackson | FOR BLUE SKY INNOVATION Those digital jukeboxes at bars might actually help get you home from a night out.

An upgraded version of the widely used TouchTunes digital jukebox now gives bar patrons real-time local transit information on buses and trains, taxis, bikesharing, and ridesharing services like Uber and Lyft. Users see what travel options are nearby and how long for arrivals.

Bar and tavern patrons pay nothing for the information, which is supported with advertising revenue.

The information is provided through startup TransitScreen. The service went live earlier this month in TouchTunes at about

200 locations in 14 cities, including 33 bars and taverns in Chicago.

"It's a public good," said Ryan Croft, who with Wilmette native Matt Caywood cofounded Washington, D.C.-based Transit-Screen. "It means a lot for us to be able to tell you that the bus is coming in six minutes, so that you're not waiting an eternity outside for that bus. Instead, you're waiting inside

Croft said the service has started with advertising for Absolut vodka and Malibu rum owner Pernod Ricard, and is negotiating with telecommunications, transportation and e-commerce companies for future ad deals. CHERYL V. JACKSON IS A FREELANCE WRITER.



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LOSING CUTLER'S ONLY THE START OF THE BEARS' INJURY PROBLEMS

By Dan Wiederer | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

What had already been a frustrating September for the Bears took its most demoralizing turn Monday night. During the first half of a 29-14 home loss to Philadelphia, Jay Cutler aggravated the thumb on his throwing hand, a setback that ultimately chased the veteran quarterback from the game for good late in the third quarter.

Cutler had X-rays on the thumb Monday night and underwent further medical testing Tuesday. On Tuesday, coach John Fox specified Cutler's injury as a thumb sprain but could not detail the severity or the potential length of the quarterback's absence.

"We'll just take it day to day," Fox said. "Brian Hoyer stepped in [Monday] and I thought did a pretty good job. We'll evaluate that tomorrow and split up practice as need be."

It seems likely that Hoyer will take all the first-team reps with the offense when the Bears return to practice Wednesday. But Fox wasn't ready to put any sort of timetable on Cutler's absence.

The Bears coach also insisted that if Cutler had originally suffered his thumb injury in a season-opening loss at Houston that it had not been a limiting factor in the practices leading up to the Eagles game.

"He practiced every play of practice last week," Fox said. "It didn't appear to [hinder him]. I'm not a doctor. I just listen to our medical people."

Cutler's setback wasn't the only significant injury for the Bears, who dropped to 0-2 with

the loss. Fox said Tuesday that inside linebacker Danny Trevathan suffered a thumb injury that will require surgery Wednesday. Fox did say Trevathan's injury was not seasonending and shouldn't keep him out for an extended period.

Outside linebacker Lamarr Houston also went down with a knee injury Monday. Second-year nose tackle Eddie Goldman, meanwhile, left the field on a cart in the second half with an injury to his left ankle. Starting safety Adrian Amos and slot cornerback Bryce Callahan were also unable to finish Monday's game with both suffering concussions.

Cutler's injury, however, is the most noteworthy. The 33-year-old quarterback admitted after Monday's loss that he was concerned, referencing the 2011 season when he fractured his right thumb against San Diego in Week 11 and ultimately needed surgery.

The Bears went from 7-3 that season to 8-8 without Cutler, a regression that turned a playoff-hopeful squad into an NFC afterthought.

with him under center in two games this season don't look great, either.

- 21: Points the Bears have scored on offense (opponents: 52 total)
- **25:** First downs the Bears have managed with Cutler (opponents: 38)
- 11: Times the Bears have punted with Cutler under center (opponents: 10)
- 3: Turnovers committed with Cutler in the game (opponents: 1)
- 31st: The Bears' NFL rank in total offense (271 yards per game)
- **30th:** The Bears' rank in scoring (14 points

Hoyer, an eighth-year veteran, relieved Cutler on Monday and is in line to start going forward.

Fox's take on Cutler's status and the week ahead?

"It's hard for me to give timelines," he said. "We'll evaluate it tomorrow. We have to practice tomorrow. We're on a short week already. If Jay's ready to do it, fine. If not, we'll go with Brian Hoyer."



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By Shelbie Lynn Bostedt | REDEYE

On the streets of New York or Los Angeles, you could easily stumble onto the set of a TV show. But Chicago? Not many think of it as an entertainment town. That is until a Dick Wolf franchise makes its home in the Windy City.

For the cast of Wolf's ever-expanding "Chicago" franchise, the city itself is an important element in bringing the shows to life. Whether it be fleshing out a character's backstory or incorporating topical issues into a plot, the city is a necessary element of the Wolf-Chicago universe.

Chicago Fire

Wolf started his Chicago empire with "Chicago Fire," which follows the lives—inside and outside the firehouse—of the men and women of

the Chicago Fire Department's Engine Co. 51. The series is set to premiere its fifth season Oct. 11.

For Bronx, N.Y.,-raised Joe Minoso, who plays Joe Cruz, the fact that Chicago is the Second City is what makes it such an inviting place to both live and work.

"I think part of how I got the role to begin with was because I had been in Chicago," he said. "There's a certain sensibility of the middle class family-oriented working man that is the bread and butter of this city, and that's what Chicago represents."

Minoso's character is from Humboldt Park, adjacent to where the actor first lived when he

moved to Logan Square. Though he was raised in the Bronx, the universal experience of growing up in an "urban city center" helped him flesh out his Chicago-based character.

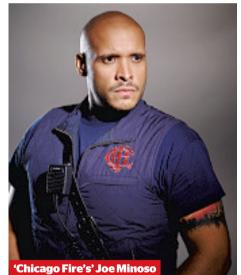
"I grew up in a very Latino-centric neighborhood, and every store you went into, the cashiers spoke Spanish better than they did English," Minoso said. "Growing up in the in-

ner city in the Bronx, you're no stranger to what it is to be a part of that universe."

Also part of the "Fire" squad is Yuri Sardarov, a Chicago-area native who immigrated to the U.S. from Russia when he was just 2 years old. Sardarov's character, Brian "Otis" Zvonecek, is also a Russian immigrant, and many of his experiences on screen can be traced to what Sardarov experienced as a child of an immigrant family.

"I didn't have to go out of my way to explore [the immigrant community]," he said of preparing to portray Zvonecek. "I grew up with that. I kind of know the

His art so closely imitates his life that the role of his on-screen "Baba" was almost given to his real-life grandmother.



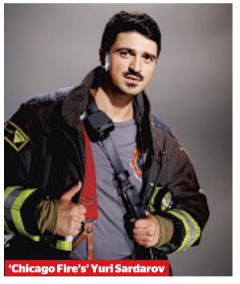
Minoso and Sardarov both insist Chicago is the place to be when it comes to kicking off an acting career.

"Chicago is a Goldilocks city, not too hot, not too cold," Sardarov said. "You can exist in a community that is really open to your transformation and ... not have to live in a 10-by-10square-foot apartment where the bathroom is in the kitchen, like you would in New York or

Chicago P.D.

Why have a successful show when you could have a successful franchise? After one season of "Fire" came "Chicago P.D.," which expanded on characters already introduced minimally throughout "Fire." "P.D." follows the lives of the uniformed police patrol and the Intelligence Unit of the Chicago Police Department.

LaRoyce Hawkins of Harvey, Ill., a south



suburb of the city, portrays newly promoted detective Kevin Atwater, who recently joined the Intelligence Unit. When producers discovered Hawkins was from Harvey, they decided his character would hail from Harvey, as well.

"That's one of the biggest blessings they could have offered me as an artist because they gave Atwater every experience that I've ever had," Hawkins said.

Hawkins went to Illinois State University to study acting and came back to the Chicago area to launch his career. When he was just starting out, he said, Chicago actors weren't being offered leading roles. But now, with shows like the 'Chicago" franchise, that's changing.

"I go to work every day and represent Chicago in a way that will make people consider us for main roles," he said. "They don't need to go to New York or LA because Chicago definitely has enough talent in the city to represent itself."

MARK YOUR **CALENDAR** Chicago P.D.

Season 4 premieres Wednesday, Sept. 21

Chicago Med

Season 2 premieres Thursday, Sept. 22

Chicago Fire

Season 5 premieres Tuesday, Oct. 11

All shows air 9 p.m. on NBC

ropes."









That's abundantly true of the rest of the cast of the franchise, including Hawkins' co-star,

Hawkins also says his own life exp

Hawkins also says his own life experiences in the Chicago area inform how he portrays a Chicago officer.

"I have the unique position, being from the hood and also playing a police officer who has integrity, who has respect, who treats people with care," he said. "I guess the challenge is really just accepting that and finding the courage to make a stand and have a position and be an example of what it means to be a responsible police officer."

Despite tension between the city and the Chicago Police Department, Squerciati, whose character shot an unarmed black man last season, says the show affords her a unique perspec-

Marina Squerciati, a Northwestern graduate

"I didn't really know the city the way I know

it now, living in it and working in it," said Squer-

ciati, who plays Officer Kim Burgess. "In film-

ing the show, I'm seeing things that I'd never

get to see on my own. I feel like a real citizen of

who originally hails from New York.

tive

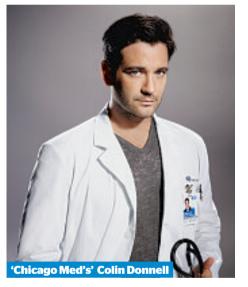
Chicago, finally."

"I work with cops every day—they're the people that I literally look to every time I take a step just to make sure I'm portraying a police officer correctly," she said. "I feel like I understand a little bit more from the police officer's

Chicago Med

After successful seasons of "Fire" and "P.D.," expanding on the "Chicago" franchise universe was the logical next step. "Med" joined the fray last year, rounding out the Chicago trio that—spoiler—won't stay a trio for long.

Colin Donnell, who plays Dr. Connor

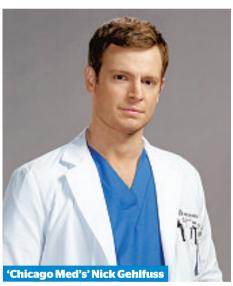


Rhodes, grew up in St. Louis and attended Indiana University before moving out to New York to launch his career. Coming back to the Midwest wasn't ever something he planned on.

"St. Louis is a place that I love and I'm very prideful of it, but it was never a place I saw myself going back to," he said. "Chicago has been this wonderful eye-opening experience, and it's opened up its arms to us."

Despite spending time in New York, Donnell still has what he calls the "good ol' boy" Midwestern authenticity that he lends to his character.

"They've written a lot of [my experiences] into Connor: He's gone and explored the world and moved away from Chicago for a long time, but he's come back to his roots," he said of his character, who is from Chicago but spent time in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, after his residency was up.



Nick Gehlfuss, who first joined the cast as the problem-child brother of a detective on "Chicago P.D.," said he sees many similarities between his rural Cleveland upbringing and Dr. Will Halstead's Canaryville neighborhood roots, but he's still spent plenty of time in the neighborhood, even hanging out at a local baseball field

"The more you have in your toolbox, if you can visualize or have a moment to provide you a visual, as an actor, that's paramount," Gehlfuss said. "Growing up there, I would've played there, my father and brothers all would've played there together."

With all these firefighters and police officers and doctors running around, you know there's a natural next step. A fourth addition to the franchise, "Chicago Justice," is due out in early 2017.

@SHELBIELBOSTEDT | SBOSTEDT@REDEYECHICAGO.COM







HOW DIRECTOR JOE SWANBERG MADE TV HE'D WANT TO WATCH IN NETFLIX'S 'EASY' By Josh Terry | REDEYE

When director Joe Swanberg came up with the idea for "Easy," a new Chicago-set anthology series streaming on Netflix on Thursday, he first looked at his own TV habits.

"The goal was to make a show that I would actually watch—would and could actually watch," the 35-year-old Lincoln Square resident says over beers at the Gman Tayern.

TV. And then it was becoming apparent to me get the best experience. that by defining things I didn't like about what a show could be, I could make a show that I did like," Swanberg continues. "When I hear about a show from people, like oftentimes that show's Fire," not to mention TV episodes that he diseasons plus catch up with this one?' It's just not going to happen," he laughs.

For the ever-busy Swanberg, who's also a father of two and husband to local director Kris Swanberg, after putting the kids to bed and finishing up any leftover work, he's typically watching TV late at night. "Starting a 90-minute movie at 11 at night is not impossible, but it's not ideal either," Swanberg jokes, before adding, "So I usually end up watching a show like 'Louie' or something, where I can just dip in and out of it because there's not a strong narrative to follow." Because it's difficult to keep up with a multiwas drawn to the anthology format and shows standalone stories.

Swanberg explains, "The big positive for TV is its ability to tell stories over a long period of time. The big negative is being stuck with those characters over a long period of time. The idea that I would then follow for however long felt really stifling. I just wanted a more open-ended structure than that."

"Easy" is Swanberg's first television show, an eight-episode season that he wrote, directed and produced following loosely connected Chicagoans as they messily navigate relationships, sex,

"In many ways, ['Easy'] came out of a converdreams and what it means to be a good person sation that I had with a guy named Billy Rosenin 2016. It's an easily digestible and binge-worberg, who's a co-producer on the show, and I was thy show that spans just over three hours total, just telling Billy all the things I didn't like about where you don't have to watch it all in order to

reer, which spans 18 feature films such as 2013's "Drinking Buddies" and 2015's "Digging For already in Season 3 or 4. I'm like, 'When the rected of "Looking" and "Love," his signature [bleep] am I going to watch the previous three style that's often been dubbed as part of the "mumblecore" film movement is still on full display here. "I basically was like, 'Oh, I can just keep making my movies but call it a TV show.' That's sort of the origin of it. And then it defined itself in the same ways that my movies do, in which the casting became a huge part of the writing," he says. "Easy" might boast the most stacked lineup of actors out of any new fall TV

One of Swanberg's most well-known features as a director is his proclivity for casting actors for their real-life personalities rather than for their ability to assume a wide range of characseason arc following the same characters, he ters. "The show's improvised, so whoever the actor is playing a role is going to determine who he like "Black Mirror," in which episodes serve as or she is as a character," he explains. But when you think of improv, to have experienced actors get a topic and generate on the spot, Swanberg's approach is much more nuanced and true-tolife. Swanberg elaborates, "In many ways I'm not asking them to improvise the way people of starting a show with a bunch of characters typically think. So in a perfect scenario, if we're telling the right story and doing it the right way, all that improv is conversations they've had before." He gives an example: "I'll tell my actors, 'These two characters will have this conversation about this subject. You guys tell me: How do you talk about it? When you talked to your wife about this a month ago, what did you guys

say? How do we let that inform this?""

That's not to say there's no structure to "Easy." While improvisation is a key component to Swanberg creating true-to-life dialogue that always feels natural, he knew where he wanted to go with each episode. "For a 27- minute episode, I started out with one paragraph. Then probably over the course of casting and writing, I fleshed that out to a three- or fourpage outline. So you know that's a lot that's up for grabs—the difference between a three-page outline and a 27-minute episode," he says. The results are the best of both worlds: the perfect For fans of Swanberg's amazingly prolific cabalance between realistic conversations that feel like they're something you've talked about with your significant others and closest friends, and a compelling half-hour story.

While the episodes all work as distinct stories, they are connected in that their characters are balancing trying to be better with the realities of their situations, be it trying to reclaim a sexual spark in a stagnant but loving marriage, figuring out if settling down is actually settling or following dreams versus the obligations of iob or familv. "At the crux of what's interesting about being like an educated person in 2016 is that we know better but that doesn't mean we're necessarily going to like change our behavior overnight. So I'm really interested in where these things intersect," Swanberg says. He adds, "These are the characters that I'm like most excited about exploring and wanted to like populate this first season: People who are smart enough to know the alternatives and yet also like human enough to be like stuck being who they are."

Because Swanberg's been so active exploring the real-life interactions between people throughout his decade-plus career, "Easy" could serve as a vessel for him to continue on. "My ideal scenario is it being a show where like in between doing movies and other stuff, I would just always be like doing a season of 'Easy' every year or two," he says. Even though it hasn't even aired yet, Swanberg's thinking ahead: "I would say right now that I wish I could make a show for the rest of my life."

@JOSHHTERRY | JTERRY@REDEYECHICAGO.COM



'Easy' nails life in Chicago



Josh Terry

few, if any, really capture the city's essence. Dick Wolf's primetime empire of "Chicago Med," "Chicago Fire" and "Chicago P.D.," while all shot on locations around here, are more

Even though

of TV shows

set in Chicago,

there is a wealth

focused on procedural elements than diving deep into Chicago itself. "Shameless," Showtime's long-running series about a South Side family, is partially filmed in Los Michael Chernus, Elizabeth Reaser Angeles, while "The Girlfriend Experience" is totally shot in Toronto and "The Good Wife" was obviously filmed in New York. That's why "Easy," a new anthology series from Chicagoan Joe Swanberg, who directed, wrote and produced each of the series' eight episodes, is such a breath of

No TV series has captured what it's like to live in Chicago quite like this one as it follows loosely connected city dwellers as they messily tackle relationships, sex and being better people. While it doesn't claim to be fully representative of the city, episodes feature instantly recognizable locations around the city: a Tinder date happens at Lost Lake, a couple grabs lunch at Handlebar, a coffee roaster dreams of starting a brewery while working at Dark Matter's roasting facility and so many more. For 20- and 30-something Chicagoans, seeing these characters stumble to improve in their romantic and professional lives will hit extremely close to home. It's as true-to-life as it is entertaining.

Swanberg isn't a stranger to TV, as he's directed episodes of HBO's "Looking" and Netflix's "Love," two shows that feel

like spiritual siblings to the low-stakes, intimately people-driven "Easy." Part of the reason Swanberg's had such an enduring and prolific career is his persistent focus on the natural interactions between people. The dialogue is largely improvised, and he casts actors by their personality (he's known for casting his actor friends in many of his projects) so the product on screen feels like a voyeuristic look into an actual conversation.

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HOW DIRECTOR JOE SWANBERG MADE TV HE'D WANT TO WATCH IN NETFLIX'S 'EASY' By Josh Terry | REDEYE

When director Joe Swanberg came up with the idea for "Easy," a new Chicago-set anthology series streaming on Netflix on Thursday, he first looked at his own TV habits.

"The goal was to make a show that I would actually watch—would and could actually watch," the 35-year-old Lincoln Square resident says over beers at the Gman Tayern.

TV. And then it was becoming apparent to me get the best experience. that by defining things I didn't like about what a show could be, I could make a show that I did like," Swanberg continues. "When I hear about a show from people, like oftentimes that show's Fire," not to mention TV episodes that he diseasons plus catch up with this one?' It's just not going to happen," he laughs.

For the ever-busy Swanberg, who's also a father of two and husband to local director Kris Swanberg, after putting the kids to bed and finishing up any leftover work, he's typically watching TV late at night. "Starting a 90-minute movie at 11 at night is not impossible, but it's not ideal either," Swanberg jokes, before adding, "So I usually end up watching a show like 'Louie' or something, where I can just dip in and out of it because there's not a strong narrative to follow." Because it's difficult to keep up with a multiwas drawn to the anthology format and shows standalone stories.

Swanberg explains, "The big positive for TV is its ability to tell stories over a long period of time. The big negative is being stuck with those characters over a long period of time. The idea that I would then follow for however long felt really stifling. I just wanted a more open-ended structure than that."

"Easy" is Swanberg's first television show, an eight-episode season that he wrote, directed and produced following loosely connected Chicagoans as they messily navigate relationships, sex,

"In many ways, ['Easy'] came out of a converdreams and what it means to be a good person sation that I had with a guy named Billy Rosenin 2016. It's an easily digestible and binge-worberg, who's a co-producer on the show, and I was thy show that spans just over three hours total, just telling Billy all the things I didn't like about where you don't have to watch it all in order to

reer, which spans 18 feature films such as 2013's "Drinking Buddies" and 2015's "Digging For already in Season 3 or 4. I'm like, 'When the rected of "Looking" and "Love," his signature [bleep] am I going to watch the previous three style that's often been dubbed as part of the "mumblecore" film movement is still on full display here. "I basically was like, 'Oh, I can just keep making my movies but call it a TV show.' That's sort of the origin of it. And then it defined itself in the same ways that my movies do, in which the casting became a huge part of the writing," he says. "Easy" might boast the most stacked lineup of actors out of any new fall TV

One of Swanberg's most well-known features as a director is his proclivity for casting actors for their real-life personalities rather than for their ability to assume a wide range of characseason arc following the same characters, he ters. "The show's improvised, so whoever the actor is playing a role is going to determine who he like "Black Mirror," in which episodes serve as or she is as a character," he explains. But when you think of improv, to have experienced actors get a topic and generate on the spot, Swanberg's approach is much more nuanced and true-tolife. Swanberg elaborates, "In many ways I'm not asking them to improvise the way people of starting a show with a bunch of characters typically think. So in a perfect scenario, if we're telling the right story and doing it the right way, all that improv is conversations they've had before." He gives an example: "I'll tell my actors, 'These two characters will have this conversation about this subject. You guys tell me: How do you talk about it? When you talked to your wife about this a month ago, what did you guys

say? How do we let that inform this?""

That's not to say there's no structure to "Easy." While improvisation is a key component to Swanberg creating true-to-life dialogue that always feels natural, he knew where he wanted to go with each episode. "For a 27- minute episode, I started out with one paragraph. Then probably over the course of casting and writing, I fleshed that out to a three- or fourpage outline. So you know that's a lot that's up for grabs—the difference between a three-page outline and a 27-minute episode," he says. The results are the best of both worlds: the perfect For fans of Swanberg's amazingly prolific cabalance between realistic conversations that feel like they're something you've talked about with your significant others and closest friends, and a compelling half-hour story.

While the episodes all work as distinct stories, they are connected in that their characters are balancing trying to be better with the realities of their situations, be it trying to reclaim a sexual spark in a stagnant but loving marriage, figuring out if settling down is actually settling or following dreams versus the obligations of iob or familv. "At the crux of what's interesting about being like an educated person in 2016 is that we know better but that doesn't mean we're necessarily going to like change our behavior overnight. So I'm really interested in where these things intersect," Swanberg says. He adds, "These are the characters that I'm like most excited about exploring and wanted to like populate this first season: People who are smart enough to know the alternatives and yet also like human enough to be like stuck being who they are."

Because Swanberg's been so active exploring the real-life interactions between people throughout his decade-plus career, "Easy" could serve as a vessel for him to continue on. "My ideal scenario is it being a show where like in between doing movies and other stuff, I would just always be like doing a season of 'Easy' every year or two," he says. Even though it hasn't even aired yet, Swanberg's thinking ahead: "I would say right now that I wish I could make a show for the rest of my life."

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'Easy' nails life in Chicago



Josh Terry

few, if any, really capture the city's essence. Dick Wolf's primetime empire of "Chicago Med," "Chicago Fire" and "Chicago P.D.," while all shot on locations around here, are more

Even though

of TV shows

set in Chicago,

there is a wealth

focused on procedural elements than diving deep into Chicago itself. "Shameless," Showtime's long-running series about a South Side family, is partially filmed in Los Michael Chernus, Elizabeth Reaser Angeles, while "The Girlfriend Experience" is totally shot in Toronto and "The Good Wife" was obviously filmed in New York. That's why "Easy," a new anthology series from Chicagoan Joe Swanberg, who directed, wrote and produced each of the series' eight episodes, is such a breath of

No TV series has captured what it's like to live in Chicago quite like this one as it follows loosely connected city dwellers as they messily tackle relationships, sex and being better people. While it doesn't claim to be fully representative of the city, episodes feature instantly recognizable locations around the city: a Tinder date happens at Lost Lake, a couple grabs lunch at Handlebar, a coffee roaster dreams of starting a brewery while working at Dark Matter's roasting facility and so many more. For 20- and 30-something Chicagoans, seeing these characters stumble to improve in their romantic and professional lives will hit extremely close to home. It's as true-to-life as it is entertaining.

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like spiritual siblings to the low-stakes, intimately people-driven "Easy." Part of the reason Swanberg's had such an enduring and prolific career is his persistent focus on the natural interactions between people. The dialogue is largely improvised, and he casts actors by their personality (he's known for casting his actor friends in many of his projects) so the product on screen feels like a voyeuristic look into an actual conversation.

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Recent players in Chicago's TV scene

By Lauren Chval | REDEYE

The "Chicago" franchise and "Easy" aren't the only shows Chicago boasts plenty of series call the Windy City home. In recent years, there's been a mix of shows set here and shows shot here. Let's break it down.

@LCHVAL | LAURENCHVAL@REDEYECHICAGO.COM

SET IN CHICAGO 'The Good Wife'

Alicia Florrick (Julianna Margulies) is a highpowered attorney in Chicago and her husband is the governor of Illinois, but the show was shot in New York.

'Mike & Molly'

The couple meets at a Chicago Overeaters Anonymous meeting and Mike (Billy Gardell) is a Chicago police officer, but it's normal for sitcoms to be shot in L.A.

'The Girlfriend Experience'

Christine (Riley Keough) is a student at the

fictional Chicago-Burnham Law School and has an internship at a prestigious law firm. Despite some shooting in Chicago, principal photography was in Toronto.

FILMED IN CHICAGO

'Empire'

The Lyon family runs Empire Entertainment, a major record label in New York City. Despite this, the hit drama shoots in Chicago dressed up to look like NYC. Still, we've spotted a RedEye box or two in episodes.

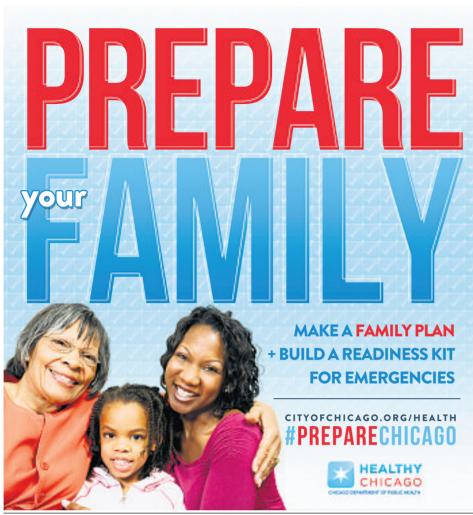
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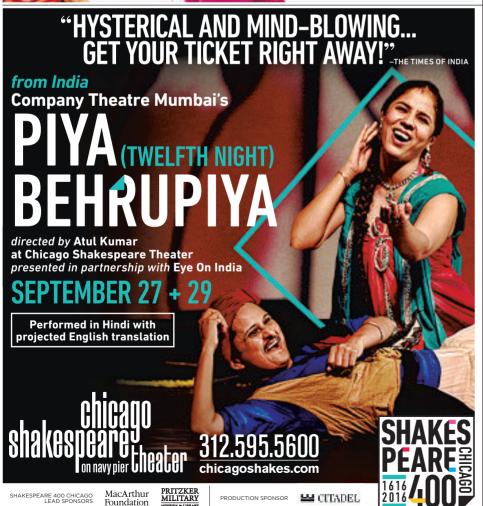
'Shameless'

An alcoholic (William H. Macy) is father to six children on the South Side of Chicago, and the show follows the family's dysfunction. Some of the series is shot in L.A., but exterior shots happen in Chicago to ensure that it has the city's feel.

'Sense8'

This Netflix series from the Wachowskis is a science-fiction drama about eight strangers from different parts of the world (so obviously not all the filming was in Chicago). Will Gorski (Brian J. Smith), a Chicago police officer, is one of the eight.











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5 CHICAGO CONCERTS TO CATCH THIS WEEK

By Josh Terry | REDEYE

Don't think festival season is over. We have a huge week ahead of us with tons of shows. Topping the week's slate is Chance the Rapper's long-awaited Magnificent Coloring Day extravaganza and Common's AAHH Fest, which is returning to Union Park, not to mention two RedEye cover stars sharing the same bill in Jamila Woods and Joey Purp when they open for Lizzo at Chop Shop on Friday. We have an unreasonably large docket, complete with some tough decisions, so let's just cut right to the chase. @Joshhterry | Jterry@redeyechicago.com

FRIDAY

Lizzo, Joey Purp, Jamila Woods

1st Ward at Chop Shop

2033 W. North Ave. 773-537-4441

It's always fun when a show's bill has the undercard giving the headliner a run for its money. While we definitely dig Lizzo (we included her in our winter music preview, which seems like years ago), we're most excited for Jamila Woods and Joey Purp. Tickets: **1stwardevents.**

Car Seat Headrest, Lucy Dacus Thalia Hall

1807 S. Allport St. 312-526-3851

Two of Matador Records' finest young acts, Car Seat Headrest and Lucy Dacus, are playing this weekend. Both have some of our favorite albums this year, and what's more, vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine recently name-dropped Dacus in an interview about all the pop culture he's consuming right now. That's a pretty cool co-sign. Tickets: **thaliahallchicago.com**

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

312 Block Party: Against Me!, Whitney, Dawes, Al Scorch, Meat Wave, Beach Slang, White Denim and more.

Goose Island's Fulton Street Brewery 1800 W. Fulton St. 800-466-7363

Of course the big draws are Against Me! (fronted by Chicago resident Laura Jane Grace) and Dawes, but wow does this festival have some great local talent. The boys in Whitney are briefly back from tour (this is your only shot to see them in Chicago until their December Thalia Hall dates), and RedEye favorites Meat Wave are also on deck. \$10 suggested donation.

SATURDAY

Magnificent Coloring Day: Chance the Rapper, Skrillex, Lil Wayne, Tyler the Creator, Young Thug, Lil Uzi Vert, Alicia Keys, John Legend, 2 Chainz and Francis and the Lights

U.S. Cellular Field

333 W. 35th St.

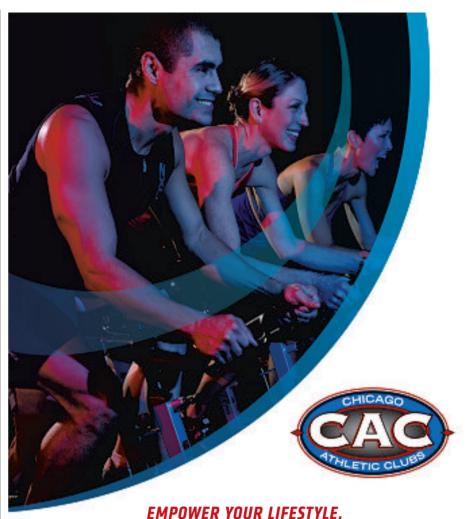
No way this isn't on every Chance the Rapper fan's docket. I can't even imagine the kind of show-stopping surprises he has in store for his hometown. Are you ready to break U.S. Cellular's attendance record? Tickets: **chance raps.com**

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Common's AAHH Fest: J. Cole, The Roots, Common, Vic Mensa, Jeremih and more Union Park

1501 W. Randolph St.

I'm totally eating my hat because I wrongly guessed a few months back that Chance would headline AAHH Fest. But it's another Bennett who's playing AAHH Fest: Chance's younger brother, Taylor, who's sharing Saturday's "Community Stage" with Tink. Sunday, however, is the main event, when The Roots, J. Cole and Vic Mensa will blow minds with awesome acts like The Internet playing earlier in the day. Tickets: aahhfest.com



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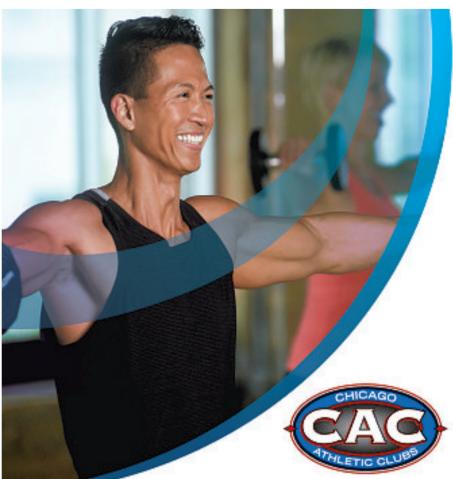


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TODAY IN THE YEAR

1792: The French National Convention voted to abolish the monarchy.

1897: The New York Sun ran its famous editorial, written anonymously by Francis P. Church, that declared, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."

1970: NFL Monday Night Football made its debut on ABC as the Cleveland Browns defeated the visiting New York Jets, 31-21.

1996: John F. Kennedy Jr. married Carolyn Bessette in a secret ceremony in Georgia.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

ACROSS

- CROSS
 Church table
 Alan Arkin's actor son
 Treble _; musical
 symbol
 Bullwinkle, e.g.
 Japanese wrestling form
 TV's ". Street Blues"
 Harbor towns
 Drop of joy or sorrow
 Qualified
 Church spires
 Evening party

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- Evening party
 Lion's cry
 Long thin pointed flag
 Ford and Close
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 Feel miserable
- Put off: delay
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 Lose color
 Singer Frankie
 Lack of healthy facial
- color
 60 Longest river
 61 Apply makeup, for example
 63 Wall recess
 64 Actress Harper
 65 British noble

- Lake near Reno Flabbergasts Seldom seen Feeds the pigs

- **DOWN**1 Elec. current units
- Money, slangily to bits; shredded Toward the back of a ship Answer
- Showy flower Member's fees
- Org. for Drs. and others
- 10 Modern tool for a
- lumberjack Zodiac sign Actress Corby
- 11 12 13 21 23 25 26 27 28 29 Actress Corby Armada Surgical beam Singles over; studied intently Very excited Reclines

Lawn trees Write back

- Daring deeds Troublemaker Smell Harbor bird
- 32 34 35 36 38 40 43 45 48 Thinking only of others Allowed by law Song for one Rats and mice

65

- _ bender; minor accident l ike lesser sins "I _ girl just like the girl
- that married dear... "A Room with _"; Maggie

58

- Smith movie Untrue 54 Tall tale
- 56 Cat's sound 57 58 Small store Beholds 62 Battery size

66

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Bye bye, Brangie

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have called it quits after 12 years together, according to **eonline.com**. After beginning their relationship in 2004 after (while?) filming "Mr. and Mrs. Smith"—scandalous because of Pitt's then-marriage to Jennifer Aniston—the two married in 2014. Jolie filed for divorce Monday, citing irreconcilable differences, and she is seeking physical custody of their six (count 'em, six) children. Love is dead. Excuse us while we crawl into a hole.





Can you smell what the Rock is ruining?

Kevin Hart (from left) and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson posted the first set photos of their upcoming "Jumanji" reboot, also starring Karen Gillan and Jack Black, to their Instagram accounts. "This movie is going to be dope as hell," Hart's caption says, which we can only assume will be the furthest thing from the truth.

THE OUOTE

"I was very astonished and pleased to win the award. I feel the Emmys have been overly generous to me. If Mr. Kimmel could please direct me to the lost and found office I will try and be on the next flight. Love, Old Maggie"

—**Dame Maggie Smith**, in a statement given via Masterpiece PBS's Twitter, in response to not only her Emmy win but also host Jimmy Kimmel's comments during the show about how actors and actresses not present to accept their awards should have to forfeit them, which he dubbed "The Maggie Smith rule." When it was announced that Smith—who has been nominated nine times, won four times and never attended the ceremony—won on Sunday for her performance in PBS Masterpiece's "Downton Abbey," Kimmel announced that her award would be in the lost and found. But nobody [bleep]s with Dame Maggie, Jimmy. Nobody.

From Joker to Warhol

Meme ruiner and method actor Jared Leto is set to star as famed pop artist Andy Warhol in an upcoming biopic penned by Terence Winter, the man responsible for "Boardwalk Empire" and "The Wolf of Wall Street." According to **thr.com**, Leto will portray the openly gay artist, and Michael De Luca ("The Social Network," "Captain Phillips") will produce.

50 shades of men in tights

Jamie Dornan, known for his (awful) portrayal of Christian Grey in the (also awful) "Fifty Shades of Grey" movie adaptation, is in talks to play Will Scarlett, half-brother of Robin Hood, in Lionsgate's "Robin Hood: Origins," according to **variety.com**. Director Otto Bathurst, of "Peaky Blinders" fame, will be at the helm with Taron Egerton, Jamie Foxx and Eve Hewson also set to star. Are they going to give Dornan some whips and tassels to carry around? Dear God, we hope not.